United Nations A/RES/72/3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 November 2017

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 76

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 30 October 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.3 and A/72/L.3/Add.1)*]

72/3. Report of the International Criminal Court

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/253 of 23 December 2016 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also that the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court[1] reaffirms the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing the International Criminal Court as an independent permanent judicial institution and, in this regard, that the United Nations and the Court respect each other's status and mandate,

Reiterating the historic significance of the adoption of the Rome Statute,

Emphasizing that justice, especially transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies, is a fundamental building block of sustainable peace,

Convinced that ending impunity is essential for coming to terms with any past crimes committed and preventing such crimes in the future,

Acknowledging the fact that the International Criminal Court has achieved considerable progress in its investigations and judicial proceedings in various situations and cases which were referred to it by States parties to the Rome Statute and by the Security Council, and which the Prosecutor of the Court has initiated *proprio motu*, in accordance with the Rome Statute,

Recalling that effective and comprehensive cooperation and assistance in all aspects of its mandate by States, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations remain essential for the International Criminal Court to carry out its activities,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

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Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing effective and efficient assistance to the International Criminal Court in accordance with the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court,[2]

Acknowledging the Relationship Agreement as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/318 of 13 September 2004, including paragraph 3 of the resolution, with respect to the payment in full of expenses accruing to the United Nations as a result of the implementation of the Relationship Agreement,[3] which provides a framework for continued cooperation between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations, which enables, inter alia, facilitation by the United Nations of the Court's field activities, and encouraging the conclusion of supplementary arrangements and agreements, as necessary,

Noting the need for funding of expenses related to investigations or prosecutions of the International Criminal Court, including in connection with situations referred to the Court by the Security Council,

Welcoming the continuous support given by civil society to the International Criminal Court,

Stressing the importance that the Rome Statute accords to the rights and needs of victims, in particular their right to participate in judicial proceedings and to claim reparations, and emphasizing the importance of informing and involving victims and affected communities in order to give effect to the mandate of the International Criminal Court towards victims,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the International Criminal Court for 2016/17;[4]

2. *Also welcomes* the States that have become parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[1] and calls upon all States in all regions of the world that are not yet parties to the Rome Statute to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to it without delay;

3. *Further welcomes* the States parties as well as States not parties to the Rome Statute that are parties to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court,[5] and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to that Agreement;

4. *Notes* the recent ratifications and acceptances of the amendments adopted at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, held in Kampala from 31 May to 11 June 2010;

5. *Underlines*, bearing in mind that in accordance with the Rome Statute the International Criminal Court is complementary to national criminal jurisdictions, that States need to adopt appropriate measures within their national legal systems for those crimes for which they are required under international law to exercise their responsibility to investigate and prosecute;

6. *Encourages* further efforts by the United Nations, other international and regional organizations and States, as well as civil society, to appropriately assist States, upon their request, in strengthening their domestic capacity to investigate and prosecute crimes, and in this regard underlines the importance of national ownership;

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[2] A/58/874 and A/58/874/Add.1.

[3] Articles 10 and 13 of the Relationship Agreement.

[4] A/72/349 and A/72/349/Corr.3.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2271, No. 40446.

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of international cooperation and judicial assistance in conducting effective investigations and prosecutions;

8. *Acknowledges* the role of the International Criminal Court in a multilateral system that aims to end impunity, promote the rule of law, promote and encourage respect for human rights, achieve sustainable peace and further the development of nations, in accordance with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Calls upon* States parties to the Rome Statute that have not yet done so to adopt national legislation to implement obligations emanating from the Rome Statute and to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in the exercise of its functions, and recalls the provision of technical assistance by States parties in this respect;

10. *Welcomes* the cooperation and assistance provided thus far to the International Criminal Court by States parties as well as States not parties, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, and calls upon those States that are under an obligation to cooperate to provide such cooperation and assistance in the future, in particular with regard to arrest and surrender, the provision of evidence, the protection and relocation of victims and witnesses and the enforcement of sentences;

11. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General in promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court in accordance with the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court,[2] and also notes in this regard that the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat has a specific role within the United Nations;

12. *Recalls* article 3 of the Relationship Agreement, according to which, with a view to facilitating the effective discharge of their respective responsibilities, the United Nations and the International Criminal Court shall cooperate closely, whenever appropriate, with each other and consult each other on matters of mutual interest pursuant to the provisions of the Relationship Agreement and in conformity with the respective provisions of the Charter and the Rome Statute, and shall respect each other's status and mandate,[6] and requests the Secretary-General to continue to include information relevant to the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement in a report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

13. *Recalls* the guidance issued by the Secretary-General on contacts with persons who are the subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International Criminal Court,[7] and in this regard takes note of the information included in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of article 3 of the Relationship Agreement;[8]

14. *Recalls* the Relationship Agreement, and notes that expenses related to investigations or prosecutions incurred by the International Criminal Court in connection with situations referred by the Security Council or otherwise continue to be borne exclusively by States parties to the Rome Statute;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of cooperation with States that are not parties to the Rome Statute;

16. *Invites* regional organizations to consider concluding cooperation agreements with the International Criminal Court;

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[6] Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Relationship Agreement.

[7] A/67/828-S/2013/210, annex.

[8] A/72/342.

17. *Recalls* that, by virtue of article 12, paragraph 3, of the Rome Statute, if the acceptance of a State which is not a party to the Rome Statute is required under article 12, paragraph 2, of the Rome Statute, that State may, by declaration lodged with the Registrar of the International Criminal Court, accept the exercise of jurisdiction by the Court with respect to the crime in question;

18. *Urges* all States parties to take the interests, needs for assistance and mandate of the International Criminal Court into account when relevant matters are being discussed in the United Nations, and invites all other States to consider doing the same, as appropriate;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of the full implementation of all aspects of the Relationship Agreement, which forms a framework for close cooperation between the two organizations and for consultation on matters of mutual interest pursuant to the provisions of that Agreement and in conformity with the respective provisions of the Charter and the Rome Statute, as well as the need for the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly at its seventy-third session of the expenses incurred and reimbursements received by the United Nations in connection with assistance provided to the International Criminal Court;

20. *Encourages* further dialogue between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, and welcomes in this regard the increased interaction of the Security Council with the Court under various formats, including the holding of open debates on peace and justice and working methods, with a special focus on the role of the Court;

21. *Continues to welcome* the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 February 2013[9] in which the Council reiterated its previous call regarding the importance of State cooperation with the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the respective obligations of States, and expressed its commitment to effective follow-up of Council decisions in this regard;

22. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work undertaken by the International Criminal Court liaison office to United Nations Headquarters, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to work closely with that office;

23. *Encourages* States to contribute to the trust fund established for the benefit of victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court and the families of such victims, and acknowledges with appreciation contributions made to that trust fund thus far;

24. *Recalls* that, at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which was convened and opened by the Secretary-General, States parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Rome Statute and its full implementation, as well as its universality and integrity, and that the Review Conference undertook a stocktaking exercise of international criminal justice, considering the impact of the Rome Statute on victims and affected communities, peace and justice, complementarity and cooperation, called for the strengthening of the enforcement of sentences, adopted amendments to the Rome Statute to expand the jurisdiction of the Court to cover three additional war crimes when committed in armed conflicts not of an international character, and adopted amendments to the Rome Statute to define the crime of aggression and to establish conditions under which the Court could exercise jurisdiction with respect to that crime;

[9] S/PRST/2013/2; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2012–31 July 2013* (S/INF/68).

25. *Acknowledges* the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization;[10]

26. *Takes note* of the decision of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at its fifteenth session, while recalling that, according to article 112, paragraph 6, of the Rome Statute, the Assembly of States Parties shall meet at the seat of the Court or at United Nations Headquarters, to hold its sixteenth session in New York, looks forward to the sixteenth session, which is to be held from 4 to 14 December 2017, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and facilities in accordance with the Relationship Agreement and resolution 58/318;

27. *Encourages* the widest possible participation of States in the Assembly of States Parties, invites States to contribute to the Trust Fund for the participation of least developed countries, and acknowledges with appreciation contributions made to that Trust Fund thus far;

28. *Invites* the International Criminal Court to submit, if it deems it appropriate, in accordance with article 6 of the Relationship Agreement, a report on its activities for 2017/18, for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

37th plenary meeting
30 October 2017

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[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 1* (A/72/1).

United Nations A/RES/72/4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 42

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 November 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.2)*]

72/4. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The General Assembly,

Determined to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

Recalling the statements of the Heads of State or Government of Latin America and the Caribbean at the Summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States regarding the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba,

Concerned about the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as "the Helms-Burton Act", the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

Taking note of declarations and resolutions of different intergovernmental forums, bodies and Governments that express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of measures of the kind referred to above,

Recalling its resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995, 51/17 of 12 November 1996, 52/10 of 5 November 1997, 53/4 of 14 October 1998, 54/21 of 9 November 1999, 55/20 of 9 November 2000, 56/9 of 27 November 2001, 57/11 of 12 November 2002, 58/7 of 4 November 2003, 59/11 of 28 October 2004, 60/12 of

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8 November 2005, 61/11 of 8 November 2006, 62/3 of 30 October 2007, 63/7 of 29 October 2008, 64/6 of 28 October 2009, 65/6 of 26 October 2010, 66/6 of 25 October 2011, 67/4 of 13 November 2012, 68/8 of 29 October 2013, 69/5 of 28 October 2014, 70/5 of 27 October 2015 and 71/5 of 26 October 2016,

Recalling also the measures adopted by the Executive of the United States of America in 2015 and 2016 to modify several aspects of the application of the embargo, which contrast with the measures announced on 16 June 2017 to reinforce its implementation,

Concerned that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6, 67/4, 68/8, 69/5, 70/5 and 71/5, the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba is still in place, and concerned also about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 71/5;[1]

2. *Reiterates its call upon* all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution, in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation;

3. *Once again urges* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the steps necessary to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to submit it to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

38th plenary meeting
1 November 2017

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[1] A/72/94.

United Nations A/RES/72/5

General Assembly

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Agenda item 89

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 10 November 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.6 and A/72/L.6/Add.1)*]

72/5. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

Having received the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency for 2016,[1]

Taking note of the statement by the Director General of the Agency, in which he provided additional information on the main developments in the activities of the Agency during 2017,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Agency,

Recognizing also the cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency and the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the Agency as approved by the General Conference of the Agency on 23 October 1957 and by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 1145 (XII) of 14 November 1957,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency;[1]

2. *Takes note* of resolutions GC(61)/RES/8 on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety; GC(61)/RES/9 on nuclear security; GC(61)/RES/10 on the strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities; GC(61)/RES/11 on strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications, comprising GC(61)/RES/11 A on non-power nuclear applications and GC(61)/RES/11 B on nuclear power applications; GC(61)/RES/12 on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards; GC(61)/RES/13 on the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of

[1] See A/72/221.

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Korea; GC(61)/RES/14 on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East; and GC(61)/RES/15 on personnel matters, comprising GC(61)/RES/15 A on the staffing of the Agency's secretariat and GC(61)/RES/15 B on women in the secretariat; and decisions GC(61)/DEC/10 on the amendment to article XIV.A of the statute of the Agency; GC(61)/DEC/11 on the promotion of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's decision-making process; and GC(61)/DEC/12 on the amendment to article VI of the statute of the Agency, adopted by the General Conference of the Agency at its sixty-first regular session, held from 18 to 22 September 2017;

3. *Reaffirms its strong support* for the indispensable role of the Agency in encouraging and assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses, in technology transfer to developing countries and in nuclear safety, verification and security;

4. *Welcomes* resolution GC(61)/RES/2 on the approval of the appointment of Mr. Yukiya Amano as Director General of the Agency from 1 December 2017 to 30 November 2021;

5. *Appeals* to Member States to continue to support the activities of the Agency;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Director General of the Agency the records of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly relating to the activities of the Agency.

47th plenary meeting
10 November 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/6

General Assembly

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16 November 2017

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 11

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 November 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.5 and A/72/L.5/Add.1)*]

72/6. Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/4 of 26 October 2015, in which it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the sub-item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", and recalling also its prior decision to consider the sub-item every two years, in advance of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games,

Recalling also its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, which, inter alia, revived the ancient Greek tradition of *ekecheiria* ("Olympic Truce") calling for a truce during the Olympic Games to encourage a peaceful environment and ensure safe passage, access and participation for athletes and relevant persons at the Games, thereby mobilizing the youth of the world to the cause of peace,

Recalling further that the core concept of *ekecheiria*, historically, has been the cessation of hostilities from seven days before until seven days after the Olympic Games, which, according to the legendary oracle of Delphi, was to replace the cycle of conflict with a friendly athletic competition every four years,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of sport in promoting education, sustainable development, peace, cooperation, solidarity, fairness, social inclusion and health at the local, regional and international levels, and noting that, as declared in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] sports can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding among peoples and nations,

Welcoming the designation of 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

[1] Resolution 60/1.

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Recalling the inclusion in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] of an appeal for the observance of the Olympic Truce now and in the future and for support for the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal,

Recalling also that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] sport is recognized as an important enabler of sustainable development, in particular for its growing contribution to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives,

Acknowledging the valuable contribution that the appeal launched by the International Olympic Committee on 21 July 1992 for an Olympic Truce could make towards advancing the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 71/160 of 16 December 2016 on sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, in which it called upon future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict prevention activities and to ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

Noting that the XXIII Olympic Winter Games will be held from 9 to 25 February 2018 and that the XII Paralympic Winter Games will be held from 9 to 18 March 2018, in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea,

Noting also that Pyeongchang 2018 strives to open and expand new horizons for winter sports in Asia and across the world, fully harnessing the power of sports to encourage inclusion and to overcome barriers of all kinds,

Recalling that Pyeongchang 2018 marks the first of three consecutive Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Asia, to be followed by Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022, offering possibilities of new partnership in sport and beyond for the Republic of Korea, Japan and China,

Expressing its expectation that Pyeongchang 2018 will be a meaningful opportunity to foster an atmosphere of peace, development, tolerance and understanding on the Korean Peninsula and in North-East Asia,

Recognizing the efforts of Pyeongchang 2018 to promote and further develop winter sports across the world through initiatives such as the "Dream Programme" for youth from regions without winter sports infrastructure,

Recognizing also the imperative need to engage women and girls in the practice of sport for development and peace, and welcoming activities that aim to foster and encourage initiatives in this regard at the global level,

Recalling article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] which outlines the right of the child to engage in play and recreational activities, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[5] which stresses the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

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[2] Resolution 55/2.
[3] Resolution 70/1.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[5] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

Welcoming the significant impetus that the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games give to the volunteer movement around the world, acknowledging the contributions of volunteers to the success of the Games, and in this regard calling upon host countries to promote social inclusion without discrimination of any kind,

Noting the successful conclusion of the XXXI Olympic Summer Games and the XV Paralympic Summer Games, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 5 to 21 August and from 7 to 18 September 2016, respectively, and welcoming the XXXII Olympic Summer Games and the XVI Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Tokyo from 24 July to 9 August and from 25 August to 6 September 2020, respectively, the XXIV Olympic Winter Games and the XIII Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 20 February and from 4 to 13 March 2022, respectively, and the XXXIII Olympic Summer Games and the XVII Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Paris from 2 to 18 August and from 4 to 15 September 2024, respectively,

Acknowledging the joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and relevant United Nations entities in such fields as the promotion of human rights, human development, poverty alleviation, humanitarian assistance, health promotion, HIV and AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development,

Acknowledging also the importance of the Youth Olympic Games in inspiring youth through integrated sports and cultural and educational experiences, noting in this regard the successful conclusion of the second Youth Winter Olympic Games, held in Lillehammer, Norway, from 12 to 21 February 2016, and welcoming the third Youth Summer Olympic Games, to be held in Buenos Aires from 6 to 18 October 2018,

Recognizing the role that the Paralympic movement plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with disabilities to a global audience and in acting as a primary vehicle to promote positive perceptions and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport and society,

Recognizing also that the active involvement of persons with disabilities in sports and the Paralympic Games contributes to the full and equal realization of their human rights, as well as respect for their inherent dignity, recalling articles 1 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[6] in which States parties recognized the right of persons with disabilities, including those with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, with a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, and noting in this regard plans to stage integrated and inclusive Games,

Welcoming the commitment made by various States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to developing national and international programmes that promote peace and conflict resolution, the Olympic and Paralympic values and the Olympic Truce ideals through sport and through culture, education, sustainable development and wider public engagement, and acknowledging the contribution of former hosts of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in this regard,

Recognizing the humanitarian opportunities presented by the Olympic Truce and by other initiatives supported by the United Nations to achieve the cessation of conflict,

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[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Recalling that, in its resolution 71/160, it supported the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic movement, and recognized the unifying and conciliative nature of major international sport events and that such events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind,

Acknowledging the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, including principle 6, which states that the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Olympic Charter shall be secured for all, without discrimination of any kind,

Noting with satisfaction that the United Nations flag will be flown at the Olympic stadium and in the Olympic villages of the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and the XII Paralympic Winter Games,

1. *Urges* Member States to observe the Olympic Truce individually and collectively, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, throughout the period from the seventh day before the start of the XXIII Olympic Winter Games until the seventh day following the end of the XII Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2018, in particular, to ensure the safe passage, access and participation of athletes, officials and all other accredited persons taking part in the Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games, and to contribute through other appropriate measures to the safe organization of the Games;

2. *Underlines* the importance of cooperation among Member States to collectively implement the values of the Olympic Truce around the world, and emphasizes the important role of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the United Nations in this regard;

3. *Welcomes* the work of the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, as well as the International Olympic Truce Foundation and the International Olympic Truce Centre, in mobilizing national and international sports federations and organizations, National Olympic and Paralympic Committees and associations of National Olympic Committees to take concrete actions at the local, national, regional and international levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the spirit of the Olympic Truce, and invites those organizations and national committees to cooperate and share information and best practices, as appropriate;

4. *Also welcomes* the leadership of Olympic and Paralympic athletes in promoting peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in their efforts to use sport as a tool to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;

6. *Recognizes* that sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games can be used to promote human rights and strengthen universal respect for such rights, thus contributing to their full realization;

7. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee, to maximize the potential of sport to make a meaningful and sustainable contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development,[3] and encourages the Olympic and Paralympic movements to work closely with national and international sports organizations on the use of sport to this end;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to promote the observance of the Olympic Truce among Member States and support for human development initiatives through sport and to continue to cooperate effectively with the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the sporting community in general in the realization of those objectives;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" of the item entitled "Sport for development and peace" and to consider the sub-item before the XXXII Olympic Summer Games and the XVI Paralympic Summer Games, to be held in Tokyo in 2020.

48th plenary meeting
13 November 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 November 2017

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 65

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 November 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.4 and A/72/L.4/Add.1)*]

72/7. Role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council on the establishment of a United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat,[1]

Welcoming the twenty-fifth anniversary of the membership of the Central Asian countries in the United Nations, reaffirming the unique role of the United Nations in the system of international relations, and encouraging political dialogue directed towards collective action to address common challenges and the development of economic and social cooperation between the countries of the region,

Noting the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, in December 2017, and relying on the experience of the Regional Centre,

Reaffirming the importance of preventive diplomacy in supporting United Nations efforts to assist in the peaceful settlement of disputes, and acknowledging in this context the role of the Regional Centre in assisting the Central Asian States, in accordance with its mandate and through enhanced regional cooperation, to respond to transnational threats to peace and in supporting sustainable development in the region,

Understanding the importance of the creation and preservation of the most stable and secure Central Asian space, supporting the aspiration of the countries of the region to establish a model of a Central Asian regional zone of peace, security, cooperation and development, taking into account the experience gained in regional

[1] See S/2007/279 and S/2007/280.

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cooperation, as well as the assistance of the international community, represented by the United Nations,

Noting the specific focus of the Regional Centre on supporting cooperation among the Central Asian States in the areas of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, with a view to the integrated and balanced implementation of all pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy[2] in the region,

Recalling the Ashgabat Declaration of the high-level United Nations-Central Asia dialogue on implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, adopted on 13 June 2017,[3]

Underlining the necessity of countering illicit drug production and trafficking in the region, and in this regard commending the efforts being made by the Regional Centre, jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through its Regional Office for Central Asia, in Tashkent, and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, in Almaty, Kazakhstan,

Welcoming the close interaction of the Regional Centre with United Nations country teams, as well as the Peacebuilding Fund, in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding,

Welcoming also the readiness of the Central Asian countries to make efforts to reach mutually beneficial agreements on the integrated use of water and energy resources in the region,

1. *Encourages* the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia to continue to liaise with the Governments of the region and, with their concurrence, with other parties concerned on issues relevant to preventive diplomacy;

2. *Welcomes* the assistance of the Regional Centre in implementing the initiatives of the Central Asian countries towards a stable, peaceful and prosperous region;

3. *Encourages* the Regional Centre to continue close cooperation with the Governments of the region to strengthen the capacity of the region to overcome challenges to peace, stability and sustainable development through preventive diplomacy and dialogue.

55th plenary meeting
17 November 2017

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[2] Resolution 60/288.

[3] A/71/982-S/2017/600, annex.

United Nations A/RES/72/8

General Assembly

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Agenda item 133

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 November 2017

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/572)*]

72/8. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/212 B of 31 March 1998 and its decision 57/573 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also its resolutions 71/261 A of 23 December 2016 and 71/261 B of 30 June 2017,

Having considered, for the period ended 31 December 2016, the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations,[1] the International Trade Centre,[2] the United Nations University,[3] the capital master plan,[4] the United Nations Development Programme,[5] the United Nations Capital Development Fund,[6] the United Nations Children's Fund,[7] the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[8] the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[9] the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[10] the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme,[11] the United Nations Population

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 5*, vol. I and corrigendum (A/72/5 (Vol. I) and A/72/5 (Vol. I)/Corr.1).
[2] Ibid., vol. III (A/72/5 (Vol. III)).
[3] Ibid., vol. IV (A/72/5 (Vol. IV)).
[4] Ibid., vol. V (A/72/5 (Vol. V)).
[5] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5A* (A/72/5/Add.1).
[6] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5B* (A/72/5/Add.2).
[7] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* (A/72/5/Add.3).
[8] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* (A/72/5/Add.4).
[9] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* (A/72/5/Add.5).
[10] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* (A/72/5/Add.6).
[11] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* (A/72/5/Add.7).

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Fund,[12] the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[13] the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[14] the United Nations Office for Project Services,[15] the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),[16] the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,[17] the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991,[18] the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals[19] and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund,[20] the sixth annual progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system,[21] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concise summary of the principal findings and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors for the annual financial period 2016,[22] the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports for the year ended 31 December 2016 on the United Nations and on the capital master plan,[23] and on the United Nations funds and programmes,[24] the report of the Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report for the year ended 31 December 2016 on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund[25] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[26]

1. *Takes note* of the audit opinions and findings, and endorses the recommendations, contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors;[1–21]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[26]

3. *Reaffirms* that the Board of Auditors shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of audits;

4. *Decides* to consider further the reports of the Board of Auditors on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda,[17] the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia[18] and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals[19] under the respective agenda items relating to the Tribunals and the Mechanism;

5. *Also decides* to consider further the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund[20] under the agenda item relating to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund;

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[12] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* (A/72/5/Add.8).
[13] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* (A/72/5/Add.9).
[14] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* (A/72/5/Add.10).
[15] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5K* (A/72/5/Add.11).
[16] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5L* (A/72/5/Add.12).
[17] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5M* (A/72/5/Add.13).
[18] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5N* (A/72/5/Add.14).
[19] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5O* (A/72/5/Add.15).
[20] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5P* (A/72/5/Add.16).
[21] A/72/157.
[22] A/72/176 and A/72/176/Corr.1.
[23] A/72/355.
[24] A/72/355/Add.1.
[25] A/72/364.
[26] A/72/537.

6. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the continued high quality of its reports and the streamlined format thereof;

7. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports for the year ended 31 December 2016 on the United Nations and on the capital master plan,[23] and on the United Nations funds and programmes;[24]

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to ensure full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in a prompt and timely manner, to continue to hold programme managers accountable for the non-implementation of recommendations and to effectively address the root causes of the problems highlighted by the Board;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide in his reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors a full explanation for the delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the Board, in particular those recommendations not yet fully implemented that are two or more years old;

10. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to indicate in future reports an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, as well as the priorities for their implementation and the office holders to be held accountable.

55th plenary meeting
17 November 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/9

General Assembly

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Agenda item 137

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 November 2017

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/524)*]

72/9. Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/257 of 8 May 2006, 61/235 of 22 December 2006, 62/224 of 22 December 2007, 63/247 of 24 December 2008, 64/229 of 22 December 2009, 65/244 of 24 December 2010, 66/8 of 11 November 2011, 67/236 of 24 December 2012, 68/20 of 4 December 2013, 69/17 of 18 November 2014, 70/8 of 13 November 2015 and 71/6 of 27 October 2016,

Recalling also the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fifty-seventh session,[1]

Having also considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives[2] and the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex),[3]

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/72/16).
[2] A/72/72.
[3] A/72/73/Rev.1.

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2. *Re-emphasizes* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[4]

3. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;

4. *Also stresses* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

5. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex),[5] on evaluation,[6] on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2016[7] and on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development.[8]

55th plenary meeting
17 November 2017

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[4] ST/SGB/2016/6.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/72/16), chap. II, sect. A.

[6] Ibid., chap. II, sect. B.

[7] Ibid., chap. III, sect. A.

[8] Ibid., chap. III, sect. B.

free of terrorism and narcotics, and strengthen the foundations of a constitutional democracy as a responsible member of the international community;

2. *Encourages* all partners to support constructively the Government of Afghanistan's reform agenda, including as envisaged in the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework and the Self-reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework, so as to secure a prosperous and democratic Afghanistan, focusing on strengthening the constitutional checks and balances that guarantee citizens' rights and obligations and implementing structural reform to enable an accountable and effective Government to deliver concrete progress to its people;

3. *Supports* the continuing and growing ownership of reconstruction and development efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, emphasizes the crucial need to achieve ownership and accountability in all fields of governance and to improve institutional capabilities, including at the subnational level, in order to use aid more effectively, and underscores in this regard the importance of the commitments of the international community and of the new set of indicators for the Self-reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework, as reiterated in the communiqué of the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in October 2016;

Security

4. *Recognizes* the commitment of the international community to supporting the training, equipping, financing and development of the capacity of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces beyond the end of the transition period and throughout the Transformation Decade, including as agreed in the Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan in 2012, in the Wales Summit Declaration on Afghanistan in 2014 and in the Warsaw Summit Declaration on Afghanistan in 2016, including through the Resolute Support Mission, as welcomed by the Security Council in its resolution 2189 (2014);

5. *Welcomes* the pledges and commitments made at the Warsaw Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, held on 8 and 9 July 2016, to continue national contributions to the financial sustainment of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces until the end of 2020, and to sustain the Resolute Support Mission beyond 2016, to continue to deliver training, advice and assistance to the Afghan security institutions, including the police, the air force and special operations forces;

6. *Takes note* of the announcement by the United States of America of its new strategy for Afghanistan on 21 August 2017 and the adoption by the European Union of its new strategy on Afghanistan on 16 October 2017 as important components of the continued support of the international community for the security, development and stability of Afghanistan;

7. *Reiterates once again its serious concern* about the security situation in Afghanistan, stresses the need to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan caused by the region-based violent extremist and other illegal armed groups and criminals, including those involved in the narcotics trade, expresses concern over the serious threat posed by the presence of foreign terrorist fighters, reiterates in this regard its call for the full and serious implementation of measures and the application of procedures introduced in relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011), 2082 (2012), 2083 (2012), 2160 (2014), 2161 (2014), 2253 (2015) and 2255 (2015), and calls upon all States to strengthen their international and regional cooperation to enhance information-sharing, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice

to better counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and returning foreign terrorist fighters in Afghanistan and the region;

8. *Expresses its serious concern* regarding the presence of terrorist organizations, in particular Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh) affiliates, and its brutal acts, including killings of Afghan nationals, commends the progress of the Government of Afghanistan in combatting these threats in the country, and affirms its support for continued efforts in this regard;

9. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all unlawful acts of violence, intimidation and attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations, including of public figures, abductions, indiscriminate attacks against civilians, killings, attacks against individuals, media groups and organs of society engaged in the promotion and protection of universally recognized human rights, attacks against humanitarian workers and civilian objects, including schools and hospitals, and the targeting of Afghan and international forces, which have a deleterious effect on stabilization and development efforts in Afghanistan, and also condemns the use, by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, of civilians as human shields, as well as Taliban attacks and acts of international terrorists;

10. *Also condemns in the strongest terms* the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack carried out in the centre of Kabul on 31 May 2017, in which more than 92 people died and at least 491 were injured, almost all of whom were civilians, including women, children and members of the media, as well as diplomatic personnel, and which caused massive damage to public and private property, including foreign diplomatic missions, as well as the subsequent systematic attacks, including against religious minorities, and underlines the need to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers, financers and sponsors of those reprehensible acts of terrorism;

11. *Stresses* the need for the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to continue to work closely together and to improve coordination in countering such acts, which are threatening peace and stability in Afghanistan and the democratic process, the achievements and the continued implementation of the Afghanistan development gains and process, as well as humanitarian aid measures, recognizes the achievements of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces in this regard, and calls upon all Member States, in particular neighbouring countries, to deny those groups any form of sanctuary, freedom of operations, movement, recruitment and financial, material or political support that endangers the State system and regional peace and security;

12. *Welcomes* the assumption of full security responsibility by the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, commends the resilience and courage displayed in this regard, calls upon the international community to provide the support necessary to increase security, including public order, law enforcement, the security of Afghanistan's borders and the preservation of the constitutional rights of Afghan citizens, as well as to provide continued support by training, equipping and contributing to the financing of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces to take on the task of securing their country and fighting against international terrorism, underscores the importance of the Chicago, Wales and Warsaw Summit Declarations on Afghanistan and other relevant agreements with regional and international partners, and takes note in this regard of the Warsaw Summit Declaration on Afghanistan;

13. *Also welcomes*, in this regard, the presence of the Resolute Support Mission, which was preceded by the International Security Assistance Force,

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 November 2017

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/72/L.8 and A/72/L.8/Add.1)*]

72/10. The situation in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/9 of 17 November 2016 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 2189 (2014) of 12 December 2014, 2210 (2015) of 16 March 2015, 2274 (2016) of 15 March 2016 and 2344 (2017) of 17 March 2017,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Welcoming the efforts by Afghanistan in the framework of the Transformation Decade (2015–2024) to consolidate its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable State in the service of its people, with the goal of becoming fully self-reliant,

Reaffirming the long-term partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community based on their renewed mutual commitments, as laid down in the Self-reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework, as agreed upon at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan on 5 October 2016, and recalling the long-term commitment of the international community to Afghanistan, reaffirmed at the Conference, with the aim of strengthening national ownership and leadership, taking into account the evolving nature of the presence of the international community,

Reaffirming also the commitment of the international community to continuing to support the training, equipping, financing and development of the capacity of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, including as agreed in the Chicago Summit Declaration on Afghanistan in 2012, in the Wales Summit Declaration on

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Afghanistan in 2014 and in the Warsaw Summit Declaration on Afghanistan in 2016, and honouring the memory of the men and women of the Afghan and international security forces who have given their lives in the course of duty,

Reiterating the urgent need to tackle the challenges facing Afghanistan, in particular the region-based violent extremist activities of the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as Al-Qaida, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups and criminals, including those involved in the narcotics trade, the development of the institutions of the Government of Afghanistan, including at the subnational level, the strengthening of the rule of law and democratic processes, the fight against corruption, the continuation of justice sector reform, the promotion of the peace process, without prejudice to the fulfilment of the measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011) of 17 June 2011, 2082 (2012) and 2083 (2012) of 17 December 2012, 2160 (2014) and 2161 (2014) of 17 June 2014, 2253 (2015) of 17 December 2015 and 2255 (2015) of 21 December 2015 and other relevant resolutions, an Afghan-led transitional justice process, the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons in an orderly and dignified manner, the promotion and protection of human rights, interfaith and intra-faith tolerance and the advancement of economic and social development,

Expressing its deep concern about the continuous high level of violence in Afghanistan, especially the number of civilian casualties, condemning in the strongest terms all terrorist activity and all violent attacks, recalling that the Taliban, as well as Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups are responsible for the significant majority of the civilian casualties in Afghanistan, and calling for compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and for all appropriate measures to be taken to protect civilians, humanitarian workers and aid and humanitarian facilities,

Welcoming the achievements of the National Unity Government in political, economic, governance and social reforms and in the management of the transition, underlining the need to preserve past achievements, and urging further improvement in this regard, in particular to address poverty and the delivery of services, stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, increase domestic revenue and promote human rights, especially women's rights, children's rights and the rights of persons belonging to minorities,

Emphasizing the central and impartial role of the United Nations in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, expressing its appreciation and strong support for all of the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Afghanistan in this regard, expressing its appreciation also for the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in accordance with Security Council resolution 2344 (2017), and stressing the important role of the Assistance Mission in seeking to further improve the coherence and coordination of international civilian efforts, guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan ownership and leadership,

Welcoming the reports of the Secretary-General[1] and the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Pledges its continued support* to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild a stable, secure and economically self-sufficient State,

[1] A/71/682-S/2016/1049, A/71/826-S/2017/189, A/71/932-S/2017/508 and A/72/392-S/2017/783.

expresses its appreciation to Member States for having contributed personnel, equipment and other resources to the Mission and for the support provided to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces by all international partners, in particular by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization through its previous combat and current non-combat missions in Afghanistan, as well as other bilateral training programmes, and encourages further coordination, where appropriate;

14. *Further welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan, with a view to ensuring stability and providing conditions for the effective rule of law and respect for human rights, in particular women and children's rights, to continuing its security sector reform by making the security provision, management and oversight of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces more effective and accountable, welcomes in this regard the progress being made in the Afghan national security institutions, as presented at the third Senior Officials Meeting, held in Kabul on 5 October 2017, recognizes the importance of further implementation of the Afghan National Police Strategy and the 10-year vision presented by the Ministry of the Interior, and expresses its appreciation for the support that Member States have provided to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces;

15. *Recalls* that regional security cooperation plays a key role in maintaining stability in Afghanistan and the region, welcomes the progress achieved by Afghanistan and regional partners in this regard, and calls for further efforts by Afghanistan and regional partners and organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, to strengthen their partnership and cooperation, including to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan security forces and security in the region, and takes note of the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization-Afghanistan Contact Group held in Moscow on 11 October 2017;

16. *Remains deeply concerned* about the persistent problem of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, welcomes the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan aimed at declaring Afghanistan mine-free by 2023, underscores the importance of sustained international assistance, encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and all relevant actors, to continue its efforts to meet its responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[2] expresses concern at the use of improvised explosive devices by the Taliban against civilians and the Afghan security forces, and notes the need to enhance coordination and information-sharing between both Member States and the private sector to prevent the flow of improvised explosive device components to the Taliban;

Peace and reconciliation

17. *Recognizes* that an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive peace process backed by regional actors, in particular Pakistan, supported by the international community, is essential for achieving long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan, reiterates its firm commitment to supporting the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts in this regard with all those who renounce violence, sever ties with international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the Constitution, including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women and girls, as well as the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, with full respect for the implementation of the measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 2082 (2012), 2160 (2014) and 2255 (2015), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council, calls upon all relevant States,

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2056, No. 35597.

especially neighbouring countries, and international organizations to remain engaged in the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, and recognizes the impact that terrorist attacks have on the Afghan people and risk having on future prospects for a peace settlement;

18. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the strategic plan for peace and reconciliation presented by the High Peace Council of Afghanistan, and calls upon armed opposition groups, in particular the Taliban, to recognize their responsibility for peace in Afghanistan and to enter into direct talks with the Government of Afghanistan, without preconditions;

19. *Also welcomes* the peace agreement signed by the Government of Afghanistan and the High Peace Council with Hizb-i Islami on 22 September 2016 as an important development in the overall peace effort of the Government, and calls for its effective implementation;

20. *Encourages* Afghanistan and Pakistan to enhance their relationship, which could lead to cooperation to combat terrorism effectively and move forward the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process;

21. *Recalls* that women play a vital role in the peace process, as recognized by the Security Council in its resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and in related resolutions, including resolution 2242 (2015) of 13 October 2015, welcomes steps taken by the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its national action plan on women, peace and security, recognizes in this regard the increasing role of women in the peace process, as manifested in their representation in the High Peace Council and its provincial committees and secretariats, as well as their contribution to the development of the Afghanistan peace and reconciliation strategy, as reflected in the recent report of the Secretary-General,[3] supports further efforts in this regard, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan to further support the active participation of women in the peace process;

22. *Recognizes* that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan, welcomes the continuation of the efforts of all regional and international partners of Afghanistan to support peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, through the Kabul Process for Peace and Security Cooperation, initiated on 6 June 2017 in Kabul under the leadership of the Government of Afghanistan, the work of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group of Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States of America on the Afghan Peace and Reconciliation Process, the International Contact Group on Afghanistan, the Moscow dialogue consultations and other relevant international and regional initiatives towards the holding of early direct peace talks between the Government of Afghanistan and authorized representatives of Taliban groups, and calls upon all regional and international partners of Afghanistan to continue their efforts, recognizing that success can only be achieved through a unified and close coordination of efforts under the leadership and ownership of the Government of Afghanistan;

Democracy

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of all parties in Afghanistan working together to achieve a unified, peaceful, democratic and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan;

24. *Recalls* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan, reiterated at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan on 8 July 2012, to strengthening and

[3] A/71/616-S/2016/768.

improving Afghanistan's electoral process, welcomes in this regard the issuance of the electoral law on 28 September 2016 and the announcement by the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan that parliamentary and district council elections will take place on 7 July 2018, reiterates its support for holding credible, inclusive and safe elections, and calls upon the Government to continue to implement the necessary electoral reforms and prepare for elections to further restore trust and confidence in the electoral process and its institutions;

25. *Welcomes* the increasingly wide and comprehensive dialogue on the political transition towards strengthening the unity of the Afghan people, and underscores its importance for consolidating democracy and Afghan political stability;

26. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan to continue to reform effectively the public administration sector in order to implement the rule of law and to ensure good governance and accountability, and welcomes the commitments, efforts and progress made by the Government in this regard;

Rule of law, human rights and good governance

27. *Emphasizes* that the rule of law, human rights and good governance form the foundation for the achievement of a stable and prosperous Afghanistan;

28. *Recalls* the constitutional guarantee of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans, without discrimination of any kind, stresses the need to fully implement the human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution, in accordance with obligations under applicable international law, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women and children of their human rights, and acknowledges efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard;

29. *Recognizes* the recent election of Afghanistan to the Human Rights Council, and welcomes the commitment and responsibility assumed in upholding and promoting human rights at the national, regional and international levels, within the framework of relevant international human rights instruments to which it is a party;

30. *Reiterates its concern* at the destructive consequences of violent and terrorist activities, including against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups and other illegal armed groups and criminals, for the enjoyment of human rights and for the capacity of the Government to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans, stresses the need to further promote tolerance and religious freedom and to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution and the international covenants that Afghanistan adheres to, emphasizes the necessity of investigating allegations of current and past violations, stresses the importance of facilitating the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims and of bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with national and international law, calls for full implementation of the mass media law, while noting with concern and condemning the continuing intimidation and violence targeting Afghan journalists, such as cases of abduction and even the killing of journalists by terrorist and extremist and criminal groups, urges that harassment and attacks on journalists be investigated by Afghan authorities and that those responsible be brought to justice, and welcomes in this regard the issuance of the presidential decree of 31 January 2016 outlining specific measures for ensuring the safety, security and protection of journalists;

31. *Reiterates* its unwavering commitment and that of the Government of Afghanistan to achieving the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of Afghan life, and commends the achievements and efforts of the Government aimed at countering discrimination and protecting and promoting the equal rights of women and men as guaranteed, inter alia, by its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and by the Afghan Constitution, the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan and the law on the elimination of violence against women;

32. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children in Afghanistan, and recalls the need for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5] its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[6] and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict[7] by all States parties, as well as of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, and all other subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict, and Council resolutions 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 and 2286 (2016) of 3 May 2016 on attacks against schools and hospitals, in particular by terrorist and extremist and criminal groups, commends the Government of Afghanistan for introducing legislation banning the recruitment and use of children and for establishing local child protection units, and welcomes the progress made on the implementation of the action plan for the prevention of underage recruitment, signed in January 2011, and the annex thereto on children associated with the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, and of the road map towards compliance;

33. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the anti-corruption commitment made by the Government of Afghanistan, welcomes in this respect the establishment of the High Council on Governance, Justice and Anti-Corruption, the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre and the National Procurement Commission and the adoption on 28 September 2017 of the Afghanistan National Strategy for Combating Corruption, as measures taken by the Government to implement its comprehensive reform agenda, strengthen governance and achieve a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at the national, provincial and local levels of government, welcomes in this regard the notable progress made thus far against the benchmarks of its comprehensive reform agenda presented and endorsed at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan and again at the third Senior Officials Meeting, and encourages continued decisive action by the Government to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at the national, provincial and local levels of government;

34. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of Afghanistan to meet governance objectives in this regard;

Counter-narcotics

35. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in fighting drug production in Afghanistan, takes note of the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled "Afghanistan Opium Survey 2017" released in November 2017, which, inter alia, notes a significant increase in the production and cultivation of drugs and stresses the need to further strengthen joint, coordinated and resolute efforts by the Government, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, international and regional actors, within their designated responsibilities,

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[6] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2173, No. 27531.

and encourages international and regional cooperation with Afghanistan in its sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking;

36. *Stresses* the importance of a comprehensive and balanced approach in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, which, to be effective, must be integrated into the wider context of efforts carried out in the areas of security, governance, the rule of law, human rights and economic and social development, in particular in rural areas, including the development of improved alternative livelihood programmes;

37. *Notes with great concern* the strong nexus between the drug trade and terrorist activities by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups and criminal groups, which pose a serious threat to security, the rule of law and development in Afghanistan and the region, and stresses the importance of the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions in this regard, including resolutions 2253 (2015) and 2255 (2015);

38. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to assist the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy and National Drug Action Plan aimed at eliminating the cultivation and production of, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs, including through increased support for Afghan law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, agricultural and rural development for the creation of improved alternative livelihoods for farmers, demand reduction, the elimination of illicit crops, increased public awareness and capacity-building for drug control institutions and care and treatment centres for drug addicts, reiterates its call upon the international community to channel counter-narcotics funding through the Government, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant mechanisms to the extent possible, notes that the problem of production, cultivation, trafficking in and consumption of narcotic drugs should be addressed on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, and welcomes and supports relevant international and regional projects and activities, including those carried out by Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan within the framework of the triangular initiative to counter narcotics;

Social and economic development

39. *Welcomes* the new Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework setting out the strategic policy priorities of Afghanistan towards achieving self-reliance and the presentation of five new national priority programmes, on a citizens' charter, women's economic empowerment, urban development, comprehensive agriculture and national infrastructure, to improve the conditions for advancing sustainable development and stability;

40. *Renews its commitment* to long-term support for the economic development of Afghanistan on the basis of mutual accountability as stated in the Self-reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework, urgently appeals to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations, including the international and regional financial institutions, to continue to provide, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework and the national priority programmes contained therein, all possible and necessary humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, development, financial, educational, technical and material assistance for Afghanistan, and underlines the crucial importance of continued and sequenced implementation of the reform agenda,

national priority programmes and the development and governance goals as agreed in the Self-reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework;

41. *Recognizes* the substantial development and notable progress achieved by Afghanistan with the steadfast support of the international community in the past years, expresses its support for the reaffirmation and consolidation of the partnership between Afghanistan and the international community during the London Conference on Afghanistan, held in 2014, at the outset of the Transformation Decade (2015–2024), in which Afghanistan will consolidate its sovereignty through strengthening a fully functioning, sustainable State in the service of its people, urges the Government of Afghanistan to involve all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programmes, welcomes the presentation by the Government of Afghanistan of the National Priority Programme on Women's Economic Empowerment, and welcomes the launch of the women's economic empowerment plan in March 2017 and the creation of a coordination unit for the National Priority Programme within the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled as important measures for the implementation of the national priority programme on women's economic empowerment;

42. *Welcomes* the continued progress in implementing the Self-reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework and the monitoring mechanism included therein, in which the Government of Afghanistan reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening governance, grounded in human rights, the rule of law and adherence to the Afghan Constitution, and held it as integral to sustained growth and economic development, and in which the international community committed to enhancing the efficiency of development aid by aligning assistance with the Afghan national priority programmes and by channelling assistance through the national budget of the Government, as outlined in the Tokyo Declaration: Partnership for Self-Reliance in Afghanistan — From Transition to Transformation,[8] and reaffirmed in the communiqué of the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan and the new Self-reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework indicators;

43. *Commends* the Government of Afghanistan for aligning its new development strategy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] acknowledges significant progress made by the Government towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2020, and urges the international community to assist the Government in completing its unfinished Millennium Development Goals and implementing its Sustainable Development Goals;

44. *Also commends* the Government of Afghanistan for improving budgetary transparency and its efforts to reach fiscal sustainability, notes the challenges ahead, and urges that continued efforts be made to meet revenue targets;

45. *Recognizes* the necessity for further improvement in the living conditions of the Afghan people, and emphasizes the need to strengthen and support the development of the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver basic social services at the national, provincial and local levels, in particular education and public health services;

46. *Reiterates* the necessity of providing Afghan children, especially Afghan girls, with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, and welcomes the progress achieved in the sector of public education;

[8] A/66/867-S/2012/532, annex I.

[9] Resolution 70/1.

Refugees

47. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, in particular Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, acknowledging the huge burden they have so far shouldered in this regard, asks for continued generous support by the international community, and asks relevant international organizations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, to continue to work closely with Afghanistan and the countries hosting Afghan refugees with a view to facilitating their voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return, rehabilitation and reintegration;

48. *Welcomes* the outcome of the high-level segment on the Afghan refugee problem of the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, held in Geneva on 6 and 7 October 2015,[10] also welcomes the outcome of the International Conference on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries, held in Geneva on 2 and 3 May 2012, and looks forward to the further implementation of the joint communiqué of the Conference, aimed at increased sustainability of returns and continued support for host countries, through the sustained support and the directed efforts of the international community;

49. *Expresses its concern* over the recent increase in the number of internally displaced persons and refugees from Afghanistan, stresses that stability and development in Afghanistan can be achieved if its citizens can see a future for themselves within their country, reiterates to host countries and the international community the obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees, the principle of voluntary return and the right to seek asylum and to ensure full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian relief agencies in order to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees, and calls upon countries to continue to accept an appropriate number of Afghan refugees for resettlement, as a manifestation of their shared responsibility and solidarity;

50. *Takes note* of the cooperation framework signed between the Government of Afghanistan and the European Union, entitled "Joint way forward on migration issues", and in this context underscores the importance of close and effective cooperation to address the problem of irregular migration in a comprehensive manner, with due focus on and consideration of addressing the root causes of migration, including through job creation and the establishment of returnees' livelihoods in Afghanistan, and in accordance with international commitments and obligations, including the human rights and legal rights of all migrants and the rights of persons in need of international protection in line with the provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[11] and the 1967 Protocol thereto,[12] as applicable;

51. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to making the repatriation and reintegration of Afghan refugees one of its highest national priorities, including their voluntary, safe and dignified return and their sustainable reintegration into national development planning and prioritization processes, takes note in this regard of the accession of Afghanistan to the Protocol against the

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/70/12/Add.1), annex II.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

[12] *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[13] on 2 February 2017, and encourages and supports all efforts of the Government towards the implementation of this commitment;

52. *Reaffirms its firm support* for the implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries endorsed by the international community in 2012, and acknowledges the Enhanced Voluntary Return and Reintegration Package for Afghan Refugees as an innovative way to enhance sustainable return and reintegration;

53. *Welcomes* the continued return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons, in a voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable manner, while noting with concern the security challenges of Afghanistan;

Regional cooperation

54. *Stresses* the crucial importance of advancing constructive regional cooperation as an effective means to promote peace, security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan, recognizing in this regard the importance of the contribution of neighbouring and regional partners and regional organizations, recalling the importance of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002[14] and welcoming in this regard the continued commitment of the international community to supporting the stability and development of Afghanistan, encourages further improved relations and enhanced engagement between Afghanistan and its neighbours, calls for further efforts in this regard, including in the framework of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan and by regional organizations and long-term strategic partnerships and other agreements aimed at achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, welcomes international and regional initiatives in this regard, such as those of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan process, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Quadrilateral Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism in Counter-Terrorism by Afghanistan-China-Pakistan-Tajikistan Armed Forces and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia;

55. *Welcomes* the important initiatives for regional connectivity, notably in the frameworks of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan and the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process confidence-building measures to facilitate increased trade throughout the region, commends the holding of the seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, in Ashgabat on 14 and 15 November 2017, and looks forward to the forthcoming Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, to be held in Baku on 1 December 2017;

56. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the importance of strengthening local and regional networks of transportation that will facilitate connectivity for economic development, stability and self-sustainability, particularly the completion and maintenance of local railroad and land routes, the development of regional projects to foster further connectivity and the enhancement of international civil aviation capabilities, also emphasizes the importance of promoting quality infrastructure,

[13] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[14] S/2002/1416, annex.

and recognizes that regional cooperation and connectivity initiatives and projects shall respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of State;

57. *Welcomes and urges* further efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional connectivity, trade and transit, including through regional development initiatives, such as the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (the Belt and Road) Initiative, and regional development projects, such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), the Chabahar agreement between Afghanistan, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lapis Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route agreement and the Turkmenistan-Aqina railway segment, and bilateral transit trade agreements, expanded consular visa cooperation and facilitation of business travel, to expand trade, increase foreign investments and develop infrastructure, including infrastructural connectivity, energy supply, transport and integrated border management, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs in Afghanistan and the region, noting the historical role of Afghanistan as a land bridge in Asia, recalls that such regional economic cooperation plays an important role in achieving stability and development in Afghanistan and, in this regard, urges all relevant stakeholders to ensure a secure environment for these development initiatives and trade agreements to be fully implemented, and welcomes the progress made by these initiatives and projects in enhancing regional connectivity, trade and transit, including the transport of the first consignment from India to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port and the establishment of the Afghanistan-India direct air freight corridor;

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board

58. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, as mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 2344 (2017), stresses the continued importance of the central and impartial coordinating role of the United Nations in promoting a more coherent international engagement, and acknowledges the central role played by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in this regard;

59. *Takes note* of the outcome of the strategic review of the mandated tasks, priorities and related resources of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan,[15] and calls for the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, with a view to ensuring greater coordination, coherence and efficiency among relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, based on the "One United Nations" approach, in line with the reform agenda and national priority programme of the Government of Afghanistan;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report every three months on developments in Afghanistan, as well as on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

61. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan".

58th plenary meeting
21 November 2017

[15] See A/72/312-S/2017/696.

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72/11. Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[1]

Taking note, in particular, of the action taken by the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat in accordance with their mandates,

Recalling its resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including its resolution 71/21 of 30 November 2016,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with its resolution 71/21;

2. *Considers* that, by providing substantive support to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the implementation of its mandate, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat continues to make a constructive and positive contribution to raising international awareness of the question of Palestine and of the urgency of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects on the basis of international law and United Nations resolutions and the efforts being exerted in this regard and to generating international support for the rights of the Palestinian people;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to effectively carry out its programme of work as detailed in relevant earlier resolutions, in consultation with the Committee and under its guidance;

4. *Requests* the Division, in particular, to continue to monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine, to organize international meetings and activities in support of the Committee's mandate with the participation of all sectors of the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 35* (A/72/35).

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international community and to ensure, within existing resources, the continued participation of eminent persons and international renowned experts in these meetings and activities, to be invited on a par with the members of the Committee, to liaise and cooperate with civil society and parliamentarians, including through the Working Group of the Committee and its associated "UN Platform for Palestine", to develop and expand the "Question of Palestine" website and the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, to prepare and widely disseminate the publications listed in paragraph 87 of the report of the Committee,[1] in the relevant official languages of the United Nations, and information materials on various aspects of the question of Palestine and to develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts;

5. *Also requests* the Division, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize, under the guidance of the Committee, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, and encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation with the Division of the United Nations system entities with programme components addressing various aspects of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation to the Division in the performance of its tasks.

60th plenary meeting
30 November 2017

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72/12. Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[1]

Taking note, in particular, of the information contained in chapter VI of that report,

Recalling its resolution 71/22 of 30 November 2016,

Convinced that the worldwide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of civil society organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and independence, and for the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides,

Affirming its support for a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session,[2] and the Quartet road map to a

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 35* (A/72/35).
[2] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

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permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003,[3]

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[4]

Taking note of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with resolution 71/22;

2. *Considers* that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department is very useful in raising the awareness of the international community concerning the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East and that the programme is contributing effectively to an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and supportive of peace efforts and should receive the necessary support for the fulfilment of its tasks;

3. *Requests* the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme for 2018–2019, in particular, inter alia:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine and peace efforts, including reports on the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations, as well as on the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy vis-à-vis the objective of peace;

(b) To continue to issue, update and modernize publications and audiovisual and online materials on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields, including materials concerning relevant recent developments, in particular the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

(c) To expand its collection of audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, to continue the production and preservation of such material and to update, on a periodic basis, the public exhibit on the question of Palestine displayed in the General Assembly Building as well as at United Nations headquarters in Geneva and Vienna;

(d) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel;

(e) To organize international, regional and national seminars or encounters for journalists aimed in particular at sensitizing public opinion to the question of Palestine and peace efforts and at enhancing dialogue and understanding between Palestinians and Israelis for the promotion of a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including by fostering and encouraging the contribution of the media in support of peace between the two sides;

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[3] S/2003/529, annex.

[4] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

(f) To continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development, in particular through its annual training programme for Palestinian broadcasters and journalists;

4. *Encourages* the Department to continue organizing encounters for the media and representatives of civil society to engage in open and positive discussions to explore means for encouraging people-to-people dialogue and promoting peace and mutual understanding in the region.

60th plenary meeting
30 November 2017

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72/13. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375 (XXX) and 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its emergency special sessions and its resolution 71/20 of 30 November 2016,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,[1]

Recalling the mutual recognition between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the existing agreements between the two sides and the need for full compliance with those agreements,

Affirming its support for a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session[2] and the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003,[3]

Recalling the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016, and underscoring in this regard, inter alia, the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 35* (A/72/35).
[2] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.
[3] S/2003/529, annex.

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call upon all parties to continue, in the interest of the promotion of peace and security, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process and within the time frame specified by the Quartet in its statement of 21 September 2010,

Recalling also the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[4] and recalling further its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,[5]

Recalling its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,[6]

Taking note of the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, as well as other international treaties,

Noting with deep regret the passage of 50 years since the onset of the Israeli occupation and 70 years since the adoption of resolution 181 (II) on 29 November 1947 and the Nakba without tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, and stressing the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in a satisfactory manner in accordance with international legitimacy,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, and takes note of its annual report,[1] including the conclusions and valuable recommendations contained in chapter VII thereof, inter alia the recommendations for the redoubling of international efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, for an expanded multilateral framework for the revitalization of peace efforts, and for efforts to ensure fullest accountability and implementation of the long-standing parameters for peace in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to support the achievement without delay of an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and the just resolution of all final status issues and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people, and in this regard authorizes the Committee to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session and thereafter;

[4] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.
[5] A/66/371-S/2011/592, annex I.
[6] A/67/738.

3. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General, as appropriate;

4. *Further requests* the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during this critical period of political instability, humanitarian hardship and financial crisis, with the overall aim of promoting the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[2] and the Quartet road map;[3]

5. *Commends* the efforts and activities of the Committee in upholding its mandate, including through cooperative initiatives with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations;

6. *Also commends* the efforts of the Working Group of the Committee in coordinating the efforts of international and regional civil society organizations regarding the question of Palestine;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine to continue to cooperate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation that they have at their disposal;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations to extend their cooperation and support to the Committee in the performance of its tasks, recalling its repeated call for all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to compile a report to the General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 69/20 of 25 November 2014, on the economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people, and, while drawing attention to the alarming findings, as reflected in the recent report on United Nations Conference on Trade and Development assistance to the Palestinian people: developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[7] calls for the exertion of all efforts for the provision of necessary resources to expedite completion and publication of the report, including the facilitation and coordination of pertinent inputs from the relevant organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations, and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate;

11. *Requests* the Committee, bearing in mind the solemn anniversaries being observed in 2017 and the absence of tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, to continue to focus its activities throughout 2018 on efforts and initiatives to end the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and to organize activities in this regard,

[7] TD/B/63/3 and TD/B/63/3/Corr.1.

within existing resources and in cooperation with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, aimed at raising international awareness and mobilizing diplomatic efforts to launch credible negotiations aimed at achieving without delay a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the facilities necessary for the performance of its tasks.

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72/14. Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session,

Recalling also its resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004,

Recalling further relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004, 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016,

Recalling the affirmation by the Security Council of the vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders,

Expressing its deep concern that it has been 70 years since the adoption of its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and 50 years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967, and that a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine has yet to be achieved,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to the request made in its resolution 71/23 of 30 November 2016,[1]

Reaffirming the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with regard to the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the

[1] A/72/368-S/2017/741

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Occupied Palestinian Territory,[2] and recalling also its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Convinced that achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East,

Stressing that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples is among the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[3] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and reiterating the importance of maintaining and strengthening international peace founded upon freedom, equality, justice and respect for fundamental human rights and of developing friendly relations among nations irrespective of their political, economic and social systems or the level of their development,

Bearing in mind its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16,

Stressing the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine,

Reaffirming the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern about the extremely detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including on the contiguity, integrity and viability of the Territory, the viability of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and the efforts to advance a peaceful settlement in the Middle East,

Expressing grave concern also about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, condemning acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Reaffirming the illegality of Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem, including settlement construction and expansion, home demolitions, evictions of Palestinian residents, excavations in and around religious and historic sites, and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the city and of the Territory as a whole, and demanding their immediate cessation,

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[2] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Expressing its grave concern about tensions, provocations and incitement regarding the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, and urging restraint and respect for the sanctity of the holy sites by all sides,

Reaffirming that the construction by Israel, the occupying Power, of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Expressing deep concern about the continuing Israeli policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian and economic, via the imposition of prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, as well as of checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern also about the consequent negative impact of such policies on the contiguity of the Territory and the critical socioeconomic and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people, which remains a disastrous humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, as well as on the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the damaged Palestinian economy, including reviving the agricultural and productive sectors, while taking note of developments regarding the situation of access there based on the trilateral agreement facilitated by the United Nations in this regard and on the resumption of some trade from Gaza to the West Bank for the first time since 2007, and, while recalling Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009, calling for the full lifting of restrictions on the movement and access of persons and goods, taking into account the Agreement on Movement and Access of November 2005, including exports, which are crucial for social and economic recovery,

Recalling the mutual recognition 24 years ago between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[4] and stressing the urgent need for efforts to ensure full compliance with the agreements concluded between the two sides,

Recalling also the endorsement by the Security Council, in its resolution 1515 (2003), of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict[5] and the call in Council resolution 1850 (2008) for the parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map and to refrain from any steps that could undermine confidence or prejudice the outcome of negotiations on a final peace settlement,

Stressing the road map obligation upon Israel to freeze settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle all settlement outposts erected since March 2001,

Underscoring the demand by the Security Council, most recently in its resolution 2334 (2016), that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard,

[4] See A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[5] S/2003/529, annex.

Recalling the Arab Peace Initiative, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, held in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002,[6] and stressing its importance in the efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace,

Urging renewed and coordinated efforts by the international community aimed at restoring a political horizon and advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and ultimately of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

Welcoming, in this regard, the initiative launched by France, and taking note of the joint communiqué of 3 June 2016, aimed at mobilizing international support for Palestinian-Israeli peace and convening an international peace conference, the ongoing efforts of the Quartet in the recent period to address the unsustainable situation on the ground and to promote meaningful negotiations and the ongoing regional efforts to advance the Arab Peace Initiative, as well as the respective efforts by China, Egypt, the Russian Federation and the United States of America,

Taking note of the report of the Quartet of 1 July 2016,[7] and stressing its recommendations as well as its recent statements, including those of 30 September 2015, 23 October 2015, 12 February 2016 and 23 September 2016, in which, inter alia, grave concerns were expressed that current trends on the ground are steadily eroding the two-State solution and entrenching a one-State reality and in which recommendations were made to reverse those trends in order to advance the two-State solution on the ground and create the conditions for successful final status negotiations,

Reiterating support for the convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in its resolution 1850 (2008) and the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011, and stressing the importance of multilateral support and engagement for the advancement and acceleration of peace efforts towards the fulfilment of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine,

Noting the important contribution to peace efforts of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, including within the framework of the activities of the Quartet and with regard to the trilateral agreement and recent developments regarding the Gaza Strip,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, under the chairmanship of Norway, and noting its recent meeting at United Nations Headquarters, on 18 September 2017, and the ongoing efforts to generate sufficient donor support in this critical period for urgently addressing the immense humanitarian, reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip, bearing in mind the detailed needs assessment and recovery framework for Gaza developed with the support of the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union, and furthering Palestinian economic recovery and development,

[6] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[7] S/2016/595, annex.

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017–2022),

Expressing concern about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, owing to the negative impact of the current instability and financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon,

Recognizing the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Urging the full disbursement of pledges made at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

Recalling the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and Jakarta in March 2014 as a forum for the mobilization of political and economic assistance, including via exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development, and encouraging the expansion of such efforts and support in the light of worsening socioeconomic indicators,

Recognizing the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the Palestinian security sector, noting the continued cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Recognizing also that security measures alone cannot remedy the tensions, instability and violence, and calling for full respect for international law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

Gravely concerned over the negative developments that have continued to occur in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the escalation of violence and excessive use of force, resulting in a large number of deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, as well as the continued construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, the arbitrary arrest and detention of more Palestinian civilians, the acts of violence, vandalism and brutality committed against Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the widespread destruction of public and private Palestinian property, including religious sites, and infrastructure and the demolition of homes, including if carried out as a means of collective punishment, the internal forced displacement of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and the consequent deterioration of the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people,

Deploring the continuing, negative repercussions of the conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip, the most recent in July and August 2014, which caused thousands of civilian casualties, the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure and the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, as well as any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard, and continued delays in reconstruction and recovery,

Taking note of the report and findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,[8] and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Expressing grave concern over the persisting disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade,

Expressing grave concern also about the lasting consequences of such conflicts and measures on the civilian population and the living conditions in the Gaza Strip, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and the report of 11 July 2017, entitled "Gaza ten years later", and stressing that the situation is unsustainable and that urgent efforts are required to reverse the de-development trajectory in Gaza and respond adequately and immediately to the immense humanitarian needs of the civilian population,

Recalling the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 July 2014,[9]

Stressing the need for calm and restraint by the parties, including by consolidating the ceasefire agreement of 26 August 2014, achieved under the auspices of Egypt, to avert the deterioration of the situation,

Reiterating the need for the full implementation by all parties of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) and General Assembly resolution ES-10/18 of 16 January 2009,

Stressing that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including through the sustained and regular opening of crossing points, and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Expressing grave concern about the imprisonment and detention by Israel of thousands of Palestinians, including children, under harsh conditions, and all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law which have occurred in this regard,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety, protection and well-being of all civilians in the whole Middle East region, and condemning all acts of violence and terror against civilians on both sides, including the firing of rockets,

Stressing the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, consistent with the provisions and obligations of international humanitarian law,

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[8] A/HRC/29/52.

[9] S/PRST/2014/13, see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2013–31 July 2014* (S/INF/69).

Stressing also the need to respect the right of peaceful assembly,

Welcoming the formation of the Palestinian Government of national consensus under the leadership of the President, Mahmoud Abbas, consistent with Palestine Liberation Organization commitments and the Quartet principles, and emphasizing the need for respect for and the preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, welcoming in this regard the efforts of Egypt to facilitate and support Palestinian unity, and taking note of the Quartet statement of 28 September 2017,

Stressing the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement and for concerted initiatives to support the parties in building a climate for peace, to assist the parties in advancing and accelerating direct peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, the Quartet road map and the Arab Peace Initiative,

Taking note of the application of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations, submitted on 23 September 2011,[10]

Taking note also of its resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded non-member observer State status in the United Nations, and taking note of the follow-up report of the Secretary-General,[11]

Noting the accession by Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions,

Acknowledging the efforts being undertaken by civil society to promote a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine,

Recalling the findings by the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion, including on the urgent necessity for the United Nations as a whole to redouble its efforts to bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, to a speedy conclusion, thereby establishing a just and lasting peace in the region,[12]

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967,

Affirming once again the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the necessity of achieving a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in all its aspects, and of intensifying all efforts towards that end, and stresses in this regard the urgency of salvaging the prospects for realizing the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and making tangible progress towards implementing that solution and justly resolving all final status issues;

[10] A/66/371-S/2011/592, annex I.

[11] A/67/738.

[12] A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1, advisory opinion, para. 161.

2. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) and, inter alia, the call upon all parties to continue, in the interest of the promotion of peace and security, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process and within the time frame specified by the Quartet in its statement of 21 September 2010, and calls for its full implementation;

3. *Calls once more for* the intensification of efforts by the parties, including through negotiations, with the support of the international community, towards the conclusion of a final peace settlement;

4. *Urges* the undertaking of renewed international efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on the relevant United Nations resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session,[6] the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[5] and the existing agreements between the Israeli and Palestinian sides;

5. *Stresses* the need for a resumption of negotiations based on the long-standing terms of reference and clear parameters and within a defined time frame aimed at expediting the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement, and in this regard encourages serious efforts by all concerned international and regional partners, including by the United States of America, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United Nations, as members of the Quartet, and by the League of Arab States;

6. *Commends and encourages* continued serious regional and international efforts to follow up and promote the Arab Peace Initiative, including by the Ministerial Committee formed at the Riyadh summit in March 2007;

7. *Welcomes* the initiative launched by France aimed at mobilizing international support for Palestinian-Israeli peace, including the efforts to organize an international peace conference in Paris in January 2017, and the ongoing efforts of the Quartet to address the unsustainable situation on the ground and to promote meaningful negotiations, while stressing its recommendations, and the respective efforts by China, Egypt, the Russian Federation and the United States to promote dialogue and negotiations between the two parties;

8. *Calls for* the timely convening of an international conference in Moscow, as envisioned by the Security Council in its resolution 1850 (2008), for the advancement and acceleration of the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

9. *Calls upon* both parties to act responsibly on the basis of international law and their previous agreements and obligations, in both their policies and actions, in order to urgently reverse negative trends on the ground and create the conditions necessary for the launching of a credible political horizon and the advancement of peace efforts;

10. *Calls upon* the parties themselves, with the support of the Quartet and other interested parties, to exert all efforts necessary to halt the deterioration of the situation, to reverse all unilateral and unlawful measures taken on the ground since 28 September 2000 and to refrain from actions that undermine trust or prejudge final status issues;

11. *Calls upon* the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, including in East Jerusalem, and calls for respect

for the historic status quo at the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, in word and in practice, and for immediate and serious efforts to defuse tensions;

12. *Underscores* the need for the parties to take confidence-building measures aimed at improving the situation on the ground, promoting stability, building trust and fostering the peace process, and stresses the need, in particular, for an immediate halt to all settlement activities and home demolitions, ending violence and incitement and undertaking measures to address settler violence and ensure accountability, and for the further release of prisoners and an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions;

13. *Stresses* the need for the removal of checkpoints and other obstructions to the movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the need for respect and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

14. *Also stresses* the need for an immediate and complete cessation of all acts of violence, including military attacks, destruction and acts of terror;

15. *Reiterates its demand* for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009);

16. *Reiterates* the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Agreement on Movement and Access and of the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, and the need, specifically, to allow for the sustained opening of all crossings into and out of the Gaza Strip for humanitarian supplies, movement and access of persons and goods, as well as for commercial flows, including exports, and all necessary construction materials, and stresses the urgent need to accelerate comprehensive reconstruction and to address the alarming unemployment rate, including among youth, including through the implementation of United Nations-led projects, civilian reconstruction activities and job-creation programmes, all of which are essential for alleviating the disastrous humanitarian situation, including the impact of the large-scale displacement of civilians in July and August 2014, improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and promoting the recovery of the Palestinian economy;

17. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to cease all of its measures that are contrary to international law and all unilateral actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that are aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Territory, including the confiscation and de facto annexation of land, and thus at prejudging the final outcome of peace negotiations, with a view to achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967;

18. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and for the consideration of measures of accountability, in accordance with international law, including without limitation in relation to the continued non-compliance with the demands for a complete and immediate cessation of all settlement activities and stressing that compliance with and respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law is a cornerstone for peace and security in the region;

19. *Underscores* in this regard the affirmation by the Security Council in its resolution 2334 (2016) that it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967

lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations, and its call upon States to distinguish in their relevant dealings between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, as well as its determination to examine practical ways and means to secure the full implementation of its relevant resolutions;

20. *Reiterates* the need for Israel forthwith to abide by its road map obligation to freeze all settlement activity, including so-called "natural growth", and to dismantle settlement outposts erected since March 2001;

21. *Calls for* the cessation of all provocations, including by Israeli settlers, in East Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites;

22. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice[2] and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003 and ES-10/15, and, inter alia, that it immediately cease its construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to comply with their legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion;

23. *Reaffirms its commitment*, in accordance with international law, to the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders;

24. *Calls for*:

(a) The withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem;

(b) The realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent State;

25. *Stresses* the need for a just resolution of the problem of Palestine refugees in conformity with its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948;

26. *Urges* Member States to expedite the provision of economic, humanitarian and technical assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Government during this critical period in order to help to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy and infrastructure and to support the development and strengthening of Palestinian institutions and Palestinian State-building efforts in preparation for independence;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned, and in consultation with the Security Council, including with regard to the reporting required pursuant to resolution 2334 (2016), towards the attainment of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the promotion of peace in the region and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on these efforts and on developments on this matter.

60th plenary meeting
30 November 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/15

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Agenda item 37

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 30 November 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.11 and A/72/L.11/Add.1)*]

72/15. Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, in particular its provisions regarding the City of Jerusalem,

Recalling also its resolution 36/120 E of 10 December 1981 and all its subsequent relevant resolutions, including resolution 56/31 of 3 December 2001, in which it, inter alia, determined that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, in particular the so-called "Basic Law" on Jerusalem and the proclamation of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, were null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

Recalling further the Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem, including resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, in which the Council, inter alia, decided not to recognize the "Basic Law" on Jerusalem,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016, in which the Council affirmed that it would not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations,

Recalling also the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[1] and recalling further its resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Expressing its grave concern about any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

Expressing its grave concern also, in particular, about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of illegal settlement activities, including measures

[1] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

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regarding the so-called E-1 plan, its construction of the wall in and around East Jerusalem, its restrictions on Palestinian access to and residence in East Jerusalem and the further isolation of the city from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are having a detrimental effect on the lives of Palestinians and could prejudge a final status agreement on Jerusalem,

Expressing its grave concern further about the continuing Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes and other civilian infrastructure in and around East Jerusalem, the revocation of residency rights, and the eviction and displacement of numerous Palestinian families from East Jerusalem neighbourhoods, including Bedouin families, as well as other acts of provocation and incitement, including by Israeli settlers, in the city, including desecration of mosques and churches,

Expressing its concern about the Israeli excavations undertaken in the Old City of Jerusalem, including in and around religious sites,

Expressing its grave concern, in particular, about tensions, provocations and incitement regarding the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, and urging restraint and respect for the sanctity of the holy sites by all sides,

Reaffirming that the international community, through the United Nations, has a legitimate interest in the question of the City of Jerusalem and in the protection of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the city, as foreseen in relevant United Nations resolutions on this matter,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,[2]

1. *Reiterates its determination* that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever, and calls upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures;

2. *Stresses* that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides and should include internationally guaranteed provisions to ensure the freedom of religion and of conscience of its inhabitants, as well as permanent, free and unhindered access to the holy places by people of all religions and nationalities;

3. *Also stresses* the need for the parties to observe calm and restraint and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, especially in areas of religious and cultural sensitivity, and expresses its grave concern in particular about the recent series of negative incidents in East Jerusalem;

4. *Calls for* respect for the historic status quo at the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif, in word and practice, and urges all sides to work immediately and cooperatively to defuse tensions and halt all provocations, incitement and violence at the holy sites in the City;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

60th plenary meeting
30 November 2017

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[2] A/72/333.

United Nations A/RES/72/16

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 30 November 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.17 and A/72/L.17/Add.1)*]

72/16. The Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East,[1]

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming once more the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Deeply concerned that Israel has not withdrawn from the Syrian Golan, which has been under occupation since 1967, contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions,

Stressing the illegality of the Israeli settlement construction and other activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967,

Noting with satisfaction the convening in Madrid on 30 October 1991 of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the formula of land for peace,

[1] A/72/333.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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Expressing grave concern over the halt in the peace process on the Syrian track, and expressing the hope that peace talks will soon resume from the point they had reached,

1. *Declares* that Israel has failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981);

2. *Also declares* that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497 (1981), and calls upon Israel to rescind it;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* that all relevant provisions of the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] continue to apply to the Syrian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and calls upon the parties thereto to respect and ensure respect for their obligations under those instruments in all circumstances;

4. *Determines once more* that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constitute a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks;

6. *Demands once more* that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* all the parties concerned, the co-sponsors of the peace process and the entire international community to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process and its success by implementing Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973);

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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30 November 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/17

General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.20 and A/72/L.20/Add.1)*]

72/17. Effects of terrorist acts directed against religious sites on the culture of peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, in particular the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in which it is stated that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,[1] which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011, 67/106 of 17 December 2012, 68/125 of 18 December 2013, 69/139 of 15 December 2014, 70/20 of 3 December 2015 and 71/252 of 23 December 2016, adopted under the agenda item entitled "Culture of peace",

[1] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

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Recalling also its resolutions 70/109 of 10 December 2015 on a world against violence and violent extremism and 70/291 of 1 July 2016 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review,

Recalling further its resolution 55/254 of 31 May 2001 on the protection of religious sites,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of States to protect the population throughout their territories,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts or threats of violence, destruction, damage or endangerment, directed against religious sites as such, that continue to occur in the world;

2. *Expresses its deep condolences* to the families of victims of heinous terrorist attacks directed against religious sites, including the recent terrorist attack that took place in northern Sinai, Egypt, on 24 November 2017, targeting worshippers during prayers, in which at least 305 people, including 27 children, were killed;

3. *Reaffirms its unequivocal condemnation* of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, as criminal and unjustifiable, and renews its commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism and to deny impunity and pursue accountability in relation to the perpetrators of terrorist acts;

4. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

5. *Reaffirms* the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation aimed at enhancing the national capacity of States to prevent and effectively suppress international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

6. *Urges* all States, therefore, to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, including those motivated by religious extremism, and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to devote, in consultation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, attention to the question of the effects of terrorist acts directed against religious sites on the culture of peace in his forthcoming reports relevant to the question;

8. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of the effects of terrorist acts directed against religious sites on the culture of peace under the item entitled "Culture of peace".

61st plenary meeting
1 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/18

General Assembly

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Agenda items 134 and 145

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 December 2017

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/72/610)*]

72/18. Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The General Assembly,

I

Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 59/272 of 23 December 2004, 60/259 of 8 May 2006, 63/265 of 24 December 2008, 64/232 of 22 December 2009, 64/263 of 29 March 2010, 65/250 of 24 December 2010, 66/236 of 24 December 2011, 67/258 of 12 April 2013, 68/21 of 4 December 2013, 69/252 of 29 December 2014, 70/111 of 14 December 2015 and 71/7 of 27 October 2016,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017,[1]

1. *Reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on reports submitted to it;

2. *Also reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

3. *Further reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of the internal and external oversight mechanisms;

4. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat shall exercise operational independence relating to the performance of its internal oversight functions, under the authority of the Secretary-General, in accordance with the relevant resolutions;

[1] A/72/330 (Part I) and A/72/330 (Part I)/Add.1.

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5. *Reaffirms* the operational independence of the Office, which is vital for ensuring that its internal oversight functions are carried out in a credible, factual and unbiased manner, and also reaffirms the authority of the Office to initiate, carry out and report on any action that it considers necessary to fulfil its oversight functions;

6. *Encourages* United Nations internal and external oversight bodies to further enhance the level of cooperation with one another, such as through joint work-planning sessions, without prejudice to the independence of each;

7. *Recognizes* the important roles of the oversight bodies in contributing to improvements in the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the Organization;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective coordination and collaboration with regard to the audit, evaluation and investigation functions of the Office in order to ensure an integrated approach to its oversight function, bearing in mind the operational independence of the Office;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual reports of the Office continue to include a brief description of any impairment of its independence;

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Office;[1]

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions pertaining to the work of the Office are brought to the attention of the relevant managers;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions, including those of a cross-cutting nature, are brought to the attention of relevant managers and that the Office also takes those resolutions into account in the conduct of its activities;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the full implementation of the accepted recommendations of the Office, including those relating to cost avoidance, recovery of overpayments, efficiency gains and other improvements, in a prompt and timely manner, and to provide detailed justifications in cases in which recommendations of the Office are not accepted;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Office to promote the Organization's zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption, and encourages the Office to continue to investigate and audit cases of fraud and corruption;

15. *Notes* the role of the Office as the central intake mechanism for fraud and corruption allegations in the Secretariat, and encourages the Office to consider calls to expand the reporting and recording of all forms of misconduct as part of renewed efforts to strengthen and professionalize the investigations function of the United Nations system;

16. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Office in reducing the average time taken to complete investigations and associated reports, and encourages the Office to continue to reduce the average length of time to six months;

17. *Notes* the efforts of the Office to bring clarity and transparency to the conclusions and recommendations of audits, and in this regard encourages the Office to standardize its approach, as appropriate;

18. *Welcomes* the efforts and progress made by the Office in reducing the number of vacant posts, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to fill the remaining vacant posts, particularly in the Investigations Division and in the field, in accordance with the relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations;

II
Activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee

Recalling its resolutions 61/275 of 29 June 2007, 64/263, section II of its resolution 66/236, section II of its resolution 67/258, section II of its resolution 68/21, section II of its resolution 69/252, section II of its resolution 70/111 and section II of its resolution 71/7,

Having considered the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017,[2]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

2. *Reaffirms* the terms of reference of the Committee, as contained in the annex to its resolution 61/275;

3. *Endorses* the observations, comments and recommendations contained in paragraphs 17, 20, 23, 27, 30, 31, 33, 39, 43, 47, 55, 58, 60, 63, 66, 74, 79, 82, 86, 92, 93, 94, 98 and 102 of the report of the Committee;[2]

4. *Encourages* the Committee to continue its consultations with all relevant United Nations bodies, as appropriate;

5. *Invites* the Committee to continue to examine the operational independence of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, including on budgetary matters;

III
Joint Inspection Unit

Having considered the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on the state of the internal audit function in the United Nations system[3] and on donor-led assessments of the United Nations system organizations,[4] as well as the related notes by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[5]

Notes with appreciation the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit,[3,4]

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[2] A/72/295.
[3] A/72/120.
[4] A/72/298.
[5] A/72/120/Add.1 and A/72/298/Add.1.